

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Part 3
The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Eph. 4:8-16

INTRODUCTION

Organized sports are predicated on individuals with different responsibilities, working together as one unit to accomplish a desired goal. When each individual performs their job to the fullest, the whole of the team benefits. The Body of Christ operates in a similar fashion. Each believer has been given a spiritual gift to use within the Body. When each believer yields to the Holy Spirit, allowing that gift to function, the Body benefits.

The gifts build up each member in the Body. The gifts aid the members of the Body from being deceived. The gifts serve the needs of the Body. The gifts manifest the grace of God in activity.

Today, we will consider the reasons behind why God gave to each believer a spiritual gift.

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS. Eph. 4:12

- A. "Perfecting" is from the Greek word "katartismos" -- used in Scripture of the type of adjusting one would get at a chiropractor -- the putting back in place that which has moved out of place.
 - 1. Artizo -- to is used for furnishing or finishing a person or thing.
 - 2. Kata -- is the Greek preposition that in composition means to do something in a thorough manner, completely.
 - 3. The word in composition carries the idea of **completing a thing; bringing it to restoration; to mend; making a person or thing all that it can be.** -- K.D.J. cf.
 - a) It is used in a negative sense of the unbeliever adjusted for destruction. 9:22
 - b) Seen in God adjusting believers to be where they need to be. 1st Co. 1:10; 1st Pet. 5:10
 - c) Seen in believers aiding other believers in time temptation. Gal. 6:1
- B. "The Saints" is used in Scripture of those set apart for service to God; of believers who have been set apart from the world, having been called out of the world; those seen as the church. cf. Acts 26:10 (Saul persecuted); Rom. 12:13 (believers contribute to necessity of); Eph. 2:19 (Gentiles apart of with Jews)
- C. The goal of perfecting of the saints is outlined by the apostle. vs.12
 - 1. "Into a work of ministry" is the result of the perfecting of the saints.
 - a) "Ministry" is diakonas (mas. gen. sing.-- concerning) a service (general) ordained by God. cf. Acts 20:24, Col. 4:17, 2 Tim. 4:5; 1st Co. 16:15 (some dedicated to)
 - b) "Work" is ergon (anarthrous use) -- a thing done as ordained by God for His plan and purposes. cf. 1st Co. 9:1; Phil. 2:30 (various acts done one

behalf of the believer); 2 Co. 9:8 (God provides the circumstances for believers to accomplish); 1st Thess. 1:4 (springs from faith); 1st Tim. 3:17 (the teaching of Scripture necessary towards); Gal. 6:4 (each believer should be assured of); 1st Co.3:13-15 (will be judged at the Bema Seat)

2. “Into the building of the Body of Christ”
 - a) The adjusting of the saints is geared to build up the Body of Christ.
 - b) “Building” is used in Scripture of edifying -- feeding of the Body.
 - (1) “Building” is oikodomnee -- is used in Scripture of **edifying -- feeding; provision of spiritual nourishment**. Eph. 4:16 (love the means of); 2 Co. 13:10; 10:8; 1st Co. 14:12
 - (2) “Body of Christ is **the sum total of all who have believed the facts of the gospel for salvation**. cf. 1st Co. 12:27
 - (3) Love is the means of edification. Eph. 4:16
 - c) Stability of the saints is the goal of “perfecting”.
 - (1) “Be no more children” -- nepioi -- “**Childish, untaught, unskilled.**” -- Joseph Thayer cf. 1st Co. 3:1; Heb. 5:13
 - (2) Tossed to and fro”
 - (a) “Tossed” is kludonizomai (pres. Pass. part.) -- “**an unsettled condition of mind influenced and agitated by one false teaching and another; characterized by immaturity which lacks firm conviction.**” -- Vines Expository Dictionary cf. Acts 27:18 (of ship tossed)
 - (b) “To and Fro” is from peripheral -- “**to carry round, to be driven about in doubt and hesitation; to be led away to this opinion, now to that.**” -- Joseph Thayer cf. Mk. 6:55 (of those running about to find Jesus)
 - d) The source of instability listed.
 - (1) “Every wind of doctrine”
 - (2) “The sleight of men”
 - (3) “Cunning craftiness”
 - (4) “They lie in wait to deceive”

- II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE FOR GIVEN FOR THE PROFIT OF THE BODY. 1st Co. 12:7, 25
 - A. The Body of Christ is liken to a human body. 1st Co. 12:27
 1. Believers are a body belonging to Christ. 1st Co. 12:27
 2. Believers are “members out from a part”(of the Body of Christ).
 - B. God has tempered the body with different operations for several reasons. 1st Co. 12:25
 1. To the profit (sumphero -- benefit) of the Body. 1st Co. 12:7
 2. In order that there be no skisms (schisma -- a rent, division, dissension) in the body. 1st Co. 12:25
 3. That the members might have the same care on behalf of one another. 1st Co. 12:25 cf. Phil. 2:20 (exemplified in Timothy’s use of his gift)

III. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS. 1st Pet. 4:10

A. "Minister" is the word diakonos (pres. act. part. -- "be ministering it")

1. "One to another" eis eautous -- to/towards yourselves (reflexive pronoun). cf. vs.8 (of charity among selves)
2. "As every man hath received"
 - a) The word "as" is from the Greek adverb kathos which emphasizes "*according as; in proportion as, in the degree that.*" -- Joseph Thayer cf. John 15:4 (abiding of believer compared to branch on tree)
 - b) "Received" is from lambano (aor. act. ind. -- used of accepting something that has been offered). cf. Rom. 4:11 (of Abraham receiving sign of circumcision); 1st Co. 11:23 (of Paul receiving account of events in the upper room); 1st Co. 12:7 (believer given gift)
 - c) "The gift" is charisma -- the result of an act of grace. Rom. 6:23 (eternal life); Rom. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:6 (of spiritual gifts)

B. The ministry of the believer with the gift is likened to "good stewards"

1. "As" is a simile that notes something that is similar to but not the same as.
2. "Good stewards"
 - a) A steward was one who served under a master as the executor of his household dispensing to the household their necessities in the time that they needed them. cf. Lk. 16:1-8
 - b) Stewardship today is only seen in similarity. cf. Tit. 1:7 (a bishop seen as)
 - c) "Good" is the Greek word kalos -- an adjective describing the beautiful outward appearance seen in good works produced by a believer. cf. Rom. 12:17 (done for all men to see); Gal. 6:9
3. "Manifold grace of God" -- "manifold" notes the *many various ways*. cf. Eph. 3:10

CONCLUSION